(c) to (f) After harvesting when the mustard crop arrives in the market, it is purchased by the traders/oil millers at the prevailing market price. Thus, the question of storage of mustard crop does not arise. However, in the case of shortfall in market price of mustard seed below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) NAFED is asked to intervene for market operation and NAFED has the enough storage capacity in each State in the country. Alternatively, they also utilise the storage facility of State Warehousing/Central Warehousing for the purpose.

Consignment of rice supplied to North-Eastern States

1292. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many consignments of rice have been supplied by FCI to North Eastern States during the past five years;

(b) what was the quantity supplied, years-wise and consignment-wise; and

(c) who were the carriers goods trains or trucks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) FCI issues the stocks of rice, wheat and sugar to each of the NE States against the allocation made by the Government of India in favour of each State. The quantities of rice supplied by FCI to NE States during the last five years are shown in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) The stocks are lifted by the State Governments/their nominees from FCI depots through their own road transportation arrangements. As far the FCI is concerned, the foodgrains and sugar were carried to FCI depots in NE States mainly by goods trains. Small quantities were carried by the road transporters.

Sugar Output

1293. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

Statement '

Allocation and Offtake of Rice in the North Eastern States during the last five years,

(Figs. In "000 Tonnes) (Provisional)

State	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allo-cation	Offtake	Allo-cation	Offtake	Allo-cation	Offtake	Allo-cation	Offtake	Allo-cation	Offtake
Assam	568.0	434.5	648.7	520.9	590.9	438.3	620.0	555.1	670.0	529.2
A. Pradesh	102.7	90.7	10.92	100.7	107.9	89.3	109.2	94.2	109.2	101.4
Manipur	120.0	32.9	120.0	58.9	101.4	45.2	122.5	43.0	125.0	46.2
Meghalaya	172.0	164.4	190.0	181.9	199.3	152.9	209.6	182.4	207.6	192.1
Mizoram	94.0	93.7	92.1	88.6	106.2	95.1	125.1	123.1	125.1	88.5
Nagaland	72.5	71.0	81.2	89.4	109.0	92.2	125.8	114.8	125.1	113.6
Tripura	194.4	148.7	194.4	150.1	167.3	153.5	200.0	183.0	197.5	150.5
TOTAL	1323.6	1035.9	1435.6	1190.5	1382.0	1066.5	1512.2	1295.6	1559.5	1221.5

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar output for the period 1999-2000 covered 174 lakh tons against 160 lakh tones last years;

(b) whether this will increase the carry out stock from 70 lakh tons last year *to* 95 lakh tons this year;

(c) whether it is being reported that because of the glut, units are being closed down and others reported sick, causing great suffering to the people in the industry and the farmers; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to resolve the problem? ,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The sugar production during the current 1999-2000 season (October-September) is expected to be of the order of 180 lakh tonnes as against last seasons production of 155.20 lakh tonnes. Taking into account the last year's carry over stocks of 67.23 lakh tonnes, the total availability of sugar works out to 247.23 lakh tonnes during the current season against the estimated consumption of 150,84 lakh tonnes. As such, slocks at the end of the season i.e. on 30th September, 2000 is expected to be of the order of 96.39 lakh tonnes.

(c) and (d) *So far no* sugar mill has reported closure or indicated sickness due to higher production/stocks. The Government have taken steps such as reduction in levy obligation from 40% to 30% of production, increased to custom duty to 60% together with existing counter-vailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne to restrict the inflow of imported sugar, pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable IeveI*of sugar prices in the open market through judicious release of freesale sugar quotas, allowed advance release of freesale sugar to the needy factories, decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar etc. in order to improve the viability of the sugar mills.

Policy Decision Regarding Export of Surplus Wheat

1294. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are burdened with huge wheat stock *in* the country costing the nation over Rs. 3000 crores as storage expenses generating